

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) [[Ear]] An ear terminal comprising:

a sealing section (2) for arrangement in the meatus (3) of a human; ~~comprising:~~

~~an inner~~ a meatus-directed microphone (M2) having a sound inlet (T1) ~~(S2) for being directed directed into that~~ opens to a closed space of the meatus[[,]];

an electronics unit (11) coupled to the ~~inner~~ meatus-directed microphone (M2) and ~~also being coupled~~ to a power supply (12); ~~as well as~~

an outer microphone (M1) for converting acoustic signals in the environment into electrical signals; and

a meatus-directed sound generator (SG),

wherein said electronics unit comprises analyzing means for generating a noise control signal for active canceling of acoustic noise signals in the meatus by generation of acoustic feedback using said meatus-directed sound generator (SG) based on acoustic signals converted by at least one of said meatus-directed microphone (M2) and said outer microphone (M1).

2. (currently amended) The ear [[Ear]] terminal according to claim 1, comprising a pressure alignment channel (T3) for slow air throughput to and from the meatus (3) through the sealing section (2).

3. (currently amended) The ear [[Ear]] terminal according to claim 1, wherein the sound inlet [[(S2)]] (T1) is constituted by a canal [[(T2)]] between the meatus-directed microphone (M2) and the inward facing portion of the sealing section (2) [[and]] adjacent to the closed space of the meatus.

4. (currently amended) An ear terminal comprising:  
a sealing section (2) for arrangement in the meatus (3)  
of a human;

an inner microphone (M2) having a sound inlet (T1) for  
being directed into the meatus;

an electronics unit (11) coupled to the inner  
microphone (M2) and to a power supply (12);

an outer microphone (M1) for converting acoustic  
signals in the environment into electrical signals; and

a pressure alignment channel (T3) for slow air  
throughput to and from the meatus (3) through the sealing section  
(2),

~~Ear terminal according to claim 2,~~ wherein the pressure alignment channel (T3) includes a pressure release valve (V) arranged for opening if the pressure difference between the

meatus and the environment of the user exceeds a ~~predetermined~~  
predetermined limit.

5. (currently amended) The ear [[Ear]] terminal according to claim 4, comprising a bypass channel (T4) in the pressure alignment channel (T3).

6. (currently amended) [[Ear]] The ear terminal according to claim 1, comprising a connection interface (13,E12),  
~~e.g. a radio receiver or electric coupling,~~ coupled to the electronic unit (11), said electronics unit being provided with conversion means (E7) for converting signals received from said interface and being coupled to the sound generator (SG) for transmitting acoustic information to the user.

7. (currently amended) [[Ear]] The ear terminal according to claim 1, comprising a connection interface (13,E12),  
~~e.g. a radio transmitter or electric coupling,~~ coupled to the electronics unit (11), said electronics unit being provided with conversion means (E5) for converting signals received from the ~~inner~~ meatus-directed microphone (M2) for transmitting electric or electromagnetic information from the user.

8. (currently amended) [[Ear]] The ear terminal according to claim [[1]] 4, comprising a sound generator (SG) coupled to said electronic unit (11), wherein the electronics unit comprises analyzing means for active noise cancelling[[,  
e.g.]] by feedback of acoustic signals converted by at least one

of said microphones (M1,M2) generated through said sound generator (SG).

9. (currently amended) [[Ear]] The ear terminal according to claim [[1]] 4, comprising a sound generator (SG) ~~arranged for being~~ directed toward the meatus and ~~being~~ coupled to said electronics unit (11), wherein the electronics unit (11) comprises filtering means for active sound transmission [[e.g.]] by amplification of chosen frequencies converted by said outer microphone (M1) [[and]] ~~generated a corresponding acoustic signal~~ through said sound generator (SG).

10. (currently amended) [[Ear]] The ear terminal according to claim 1, ~~comprising a sealing section (2) arranged for use in the ear meatus (3) of a human,~~ in which the electronic unit (11) ~~including~~ includes filtering means coupled to said ~~inner meatus-directed~~ microphone for filtering the ~~signal~~ signals from said ~~inner meatus-directed~~ microphone [[(M2)]], said filtering means being programmable to transform the signals based on the sounds received in the ear by said ~~inner meatus-directed~~ microphone (M2) into sounds having essentially the characteristics of spoken sounds of the wearer of the ear terminal.

11. (currently amended) [[Ear]] The ear terminal according to claim 10, comprising a connection interface (13,E12) for transmitting the filtered signal from the ear terminal[[;]].

12. (currently amended) ~~Ear terminal according to claim 1, for protection of a users hearing comprising a sealing section (2) for acoustically sealing the meatus (3) of a human,~~  
comprising An ear terminal comprising:

a sealing section (2) for arrangement in the meatus (3) of a human;

an inner microphone (M2) having a sound inlet (T1) for being directed into the meatus;

an electronics unit (11) coupled to the inner microphone (M2) and to a power supply (12);

an outer microphone (M1) for converting acoustic signals in the environment into electrical signals;

a pressure alignment channel (T3) for slow air throughput to and from the meatus (3) through the sealing section (2);

a sound generator (SG) with a sound outlet (S<sub>SG</sub>) for being directed toward the user meatus (3);

the electronics unit (11,E3) comprising a sound analyser coupled to said inner microphone (M2), for analyzing sound characteristics of the resulting sound field in the meatus (3), producing analyzed sound characteristics;

storing means in the electronics unit (11,E8,E9,E10) for storing measured predetermined sound characteristics of a properly functioning ear protecting device;

a comparing means in the electronics unit (11,E3) for comparing the inner microphone (M2) analyzed sound characteristics with the stored measured predetermined sound characteristics; and

indicating means coupled to said comparing means (11,E3) for being activated if said analyzed sound characteristics differ significantly from said predetermined sound characteristics.

13. (currently amended) [[Ear]] The ear terminal according to claim 1, ~~comprising a sealing section (2) arranged for use in the ear meatus (3) of a human, and~~

~~an electronic~~ wherein the electronics unit (11) ~~including~~ includes filtering means coupled to said ~~inner~~ meatus-directed microphone for filtering the signal from said ~~inner~~ meatus-directed microphone [[(M2)]], said filtering means being programmable to transform the signals based on the sounds received in the ear by said ~~inner~~ meatus-directed microphone [[(M2)]] into sounds when combined with the users own voice, providing a voice sounding natural to the user.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) [[Ear]] An ear terminal system comprising two ear terminals, at least the first of which being an ear terminal according to claim 13, said first ear terminal comprising a connection interface (13,E12) for transmitting the filtered signal from the ear terminal[[;]] into said second ear

terminal that is arranged for being positioned in the opposite ear of the user, said second ear terminal comprising a corresponding connection interface (13,E12) and a sound generator (SG) for emitting the sound into said second ear.

16. (canceled)

17. (new) An ear terminal comprising:

a sealing section (2) for arrangement in the meatus (3) of a human;

a meatus-directed microphone (M2) having a sound inlet (T1) that opens to a closed space of the meatus;

an electronics unit (11) coupled to the meatus-directed microphone (M2) and to a power supply (12);

an outer microphone (M1) for converting acoustic signals in the environment into electrical signals; and

a meatus-directed sound generator (SG),

wherein said electronics unit comprises noise control means for canceling acoustic noise signals in the meatus by conversion of acoustic signals generated by at least one of said meatus-directed microphone (M2) and said outer microphone (M1) and using feedback to said sound generator.

18. (new) The ear terminal of claim 17, wherein said noise control means comprises analyzing means for generating a noise control signal for active canceling of acoustic noise signals in the meatus using said meatus-directed sound generator.